

Historical Sketch
of the
Young Men's Christian Association
of the City of Montreal

1851-1901.

Presented at the Jubilee Celebration, June 8-10, 1901.

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Organized, November 25th, 1851,
In the St. Helen Street Baptist Church.

Presented at Jubilee Celebration, Montreal,
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HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF THE
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
OF THE CITY OF MONTREAL.

The period from 1851 to 1873 when the first Building on Victoria Square was erected and occupied.

The organization of the first Young Men's Christian Association on this continent owes its origin to the Christian earnestness and zeal of a few young men who had been members of the Young Men's Society founded by David Nasmith, of Glasgow, when on a visit to America. While in London on a business trip, one of these young men had witnessed the good results which had followed the London Association, and on his return to Montreal the question was discussed among his friends, and finally a meeting was called on Nov. 19, 1851, in the St. Helen Street Baptist Church, to consider the practicability of forming a Young Men's Christian Association on the London plan. Amongst those present when it was decided to issue the call for the meeting of Nov. 19th, were Messrs. F. E. Grafton, T. James Claxton, W. G. Milne, F. H. Marling, and John Holland. Mr. F. H. Marling, then a student in the Congregational Collège, and in charge of Gosford Street Church, was chairman of the meeting on Nov. 19th, at which a resolution was adopted appointing a provisional committee consisting of two young men from each of the evangelical churches, with

instructions to ascertain the number of young men in their respective churches likely to join such an Association, to draft a suitable Constitution, and to report the same at a meeting to be held at the same place on Nov. 25th, 1851. Mr. F. H. Marling was chairman of this committee, which consisted of 24 members. A canvass of the churches was made and a Constitution was drafted and submitted to the meeting on Nov. 25th and adopted. The title "Montreal Young Men's Christian Association" was chosen. No provision was made for the classification of members, but it required that "all young men who would sign the Constitution should be eligible for membership." It was understood that the officers should be chosen from those who were members of the churches. The membership fee was placed at two shillings and sixpence per annum, and it was to be an optional matter with members as to making a larger contribution.

Article II of the Constitution says:—Its object shall be—The religious and mental improvement of its members, especially in connection with the study of the Scriptures, the union of young men of various churches in various plans of usefulness, and the providing of means by which young men coming as strangers to the city may be brought under religious influences.

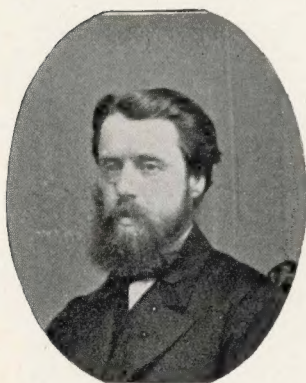
Article III.—This Association adopts as the basis of all its proceedings those fundamental principles of evangelical Christianity on which all orthodox Protestant churches are agreed, and will never admit any intermeddling with those matters of faith and polity on which such churches differ.

The Provisional Committee and others in the meeting signed this Constitution, and thus constituted themselves the first members of the Young Men's Christian Association of Montreal. It was decided to hold a meeting on Dec. 9th, for the election of officers and other business, and at that meeting Mr. J. H. Winn was elected the first President, and Mr. F. H. Marling, Secretary, and Mr. P.W. Wood, Treasurer. The Managing Board was called a "General Committee." The Oddfellows' Hall, St. James Street, was rented for its weekly meeting, and the Rev. Donald Fraser, Pastor of Côté

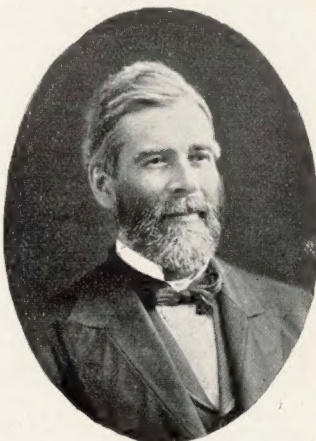


T. James Claxton,
 Charter Member and President for 11 years.

Rev. F. H. Marling,
 Charter Member and Secretary, 1851.



F. E. Grafton,
 Charter Member and President, 1860-1861.



Peter W. Wood,
 First Treasurer, 1851.

Street Presbyterian Church, delivered the inaugural lecture to a large audience on Dec. 18th, 1851.

The Work Outlined.

During the earlier months of the Association the meetings were principally of a religious and literary character, but at the first Annual Meeting in 1852, it was urged that more aggressive efforts be put forth, and a Committee was named to consider and report upon a plan to better advance the objects of the Association. This Committee reported as follows :—

1st. That sub-committees be named for each church in the city, whose special duty it shall be to induce every young man connected with these churches to join the Association.

2nd. That each member must realize his personal responsibility to do all that in him lies to promote the best interests of his fellow-members, and the young men with whom he is connected in business, and to be much in prayer that his efforts may be owned and blessed of God.

3rd. That a room in the central part of the city be secured, suitable for the Association, and that a person employed by the Association be in attendance at stated hours to meet all who come, and to give information. This room should be supplied with British, American and Provincial newspapers for the use of members and visitors.

4th. Donations of books should be secured for the formation of a Library.

5th. Greater publicity should be given to the existence of the Association, and circulars should be printed stating the objects and nature of the society, and these should be forwarded to editors of newspapers and ministers of the gospel, in Great Britain, United States and the Provinces, with a request that young men coming to Montreal be invited to communicate with the Association, and that such circulars be placed in the railway stations, on board steamers, and on lines of travel leading to the city.

6th. That a City Missionary be appointed, and that the London City Mission be communicated with to secure a suitable man for this purpose.

7th. That this Committee at once be instructed to ascertain the amount which can be secured from the members towards carrying out these objects. In their opinion an annual income of not less than two hundred pounds would be required, and while they admit

that this is a formidable obstacle, still they are confident that by self-denial and increased activity on the part of the members, and a measure of liberality from the churches, the difficulty could be surmounted, and a great amount of good accomplished, with God's blessing, the measure of which at present it is difficult to conceive.

This report was adopted, collectors appointed, and funds secured. It was difficult to obtain a suitable missionary, and in June 1853, Mr. W. Greenfield, a member of the Association, was secured to devote a portion of his time, while he was preparing for the ministry. In October, 1853, Mr. Samuel Massey was sent out by the Manchester City Mission, and he labored with great acceptance as missionary of this Association for many years.

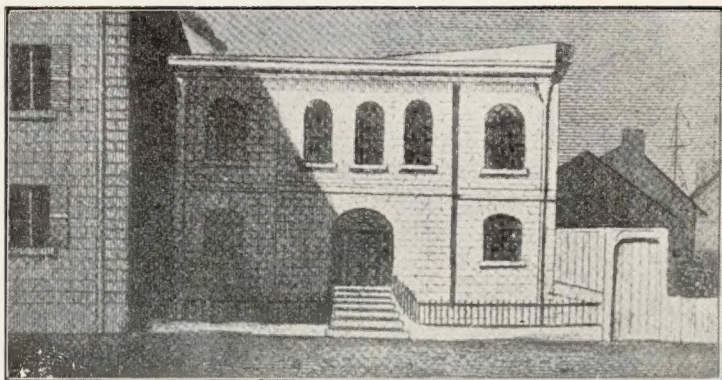
Mr. John Holland, one of the members of the Preliminary Committee of Organization, removed to Toronto in 1853, and in December of that year he was instrumental in the formation of the first Association in that city.

In 1854 the Committee decided to take steps toward entering more fully upon the legitimate work of the Young Men's Christian Association, and strongly advised that as far as practicable the Association should be separated from the city mission. This was done because it was being absorbed by the city mission work, and but little effort was put forth to meet the needs of the young men. They found that members would not come to dingy, uncomfortable rooms simply for the purpose of meeting strangers. It was also decided to make a canvas of the city merchants, in order to ascertain what amount each would subscribe annually towards its support.

In 1854 changes were made in the Constitution classifying the members and placing the entire control of the Association in the hands of the active membership, thus defined as members in good standing of evangelical churches.

Confederation of Associations.

In the same year the voluntary Confederation of the Associations of the United States and British Provinces was formed, and in January, 1855, the Montreal Association gave



St. Helen Street Baptist Church, where the Montreal Association
was organized November 25, 1851.



Bible House, corner Craig and Alexander Streets,
occupied by Association, 1867 to 1873.

its adhesion to this Confederation. The two salient points in the Confederation of the Associations being:—

1st. That the Confederation shall not legislate for, nor exercise authority over, the local Association.

2nd. That the Associations of which it is composed in their relations to it and to one another, shall be placed upon an equal and independent footing.

In 1855 the General Committee issued instructions that a room be secured for not more than £15 a year rental, and that £14 be spent in furnishings. Through the donation of a friend a Library of 300 volumes was secured.

The Paris Basis.

During this year the European Associations met in Conference in Paris, France, and adopted a basis of union which had a most important bearing upon the future history of the movement and is universally accepted to-day. It is called the "Paris Basis," and reads as follows.—

"The Young Men's Christian Association seeks to unite those young men who, regarding Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour according to the Holy Scriptures, desire to be His disciples in their doctrine and their life, and to associate their efforts for the extension of His kingdom amongst young men."

The third Annual Conference of the Confederated Associations of America met in Montreal on June 19-21, 1856, and adopted the above basis of union, so that this city was not only the birthplace of this organization on this Continent, but it was at the Convention held in Montreal that this basis of union was adopted which has since bound all the Associations together.

At this Convention 75 delegates were present, representing 23 Associations, besides 12 delegates from Boston, Portland and New York Associations, which had not at that time entered the Confederation.

At this early period in the history of the organization the physical work came up for discussion and the following resolutions were adopted, which practically forms the basis of the work at the present time :—

1st. That as bodily health is intimately connected with mental and spiritual activity and development, anything which conduces to the same must be beneficial.

2nd. That when properly conducted, gymnasiums, baths, and bowling alleys are beneficial to bodily health and physical development.

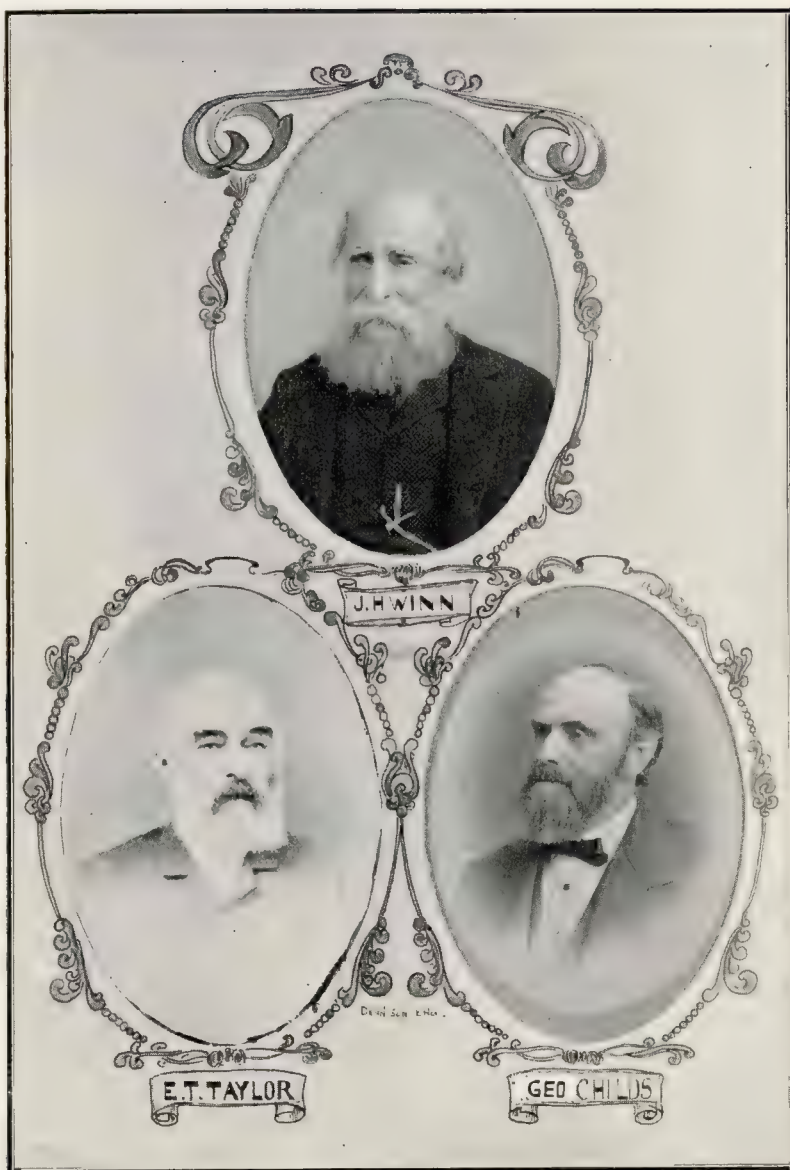
3rd. That the public sentiment in many of our cities in regard to bowling alleys renders it inexpedient for the Convention to recommend their establishment.

4th. That this Convention approves of every proper means being used by the Associations for interesting and improving the young men of our cities, and of thus drawing under good and Christian influences those whose hearts have not yet been given to the Saviour.

5th. That this Convention recommends to the Associations whose circumstances render it practicable, the establishment of gymnasiums and baths, to be as far as possible self-supporting, that is, to be maintained apart from the regular dues of the Association.

In this year the Association moved to 205 Notre Dame Street, where larger and better accommodation was secured. This resulted in an increase in the membership, which reached 205. A lecture course was started and continued for many years. The rooms were opened each afternoon except Sunday from 5 to 10 o'clock; a Bible class was started for young men, also one for youths; a Membership Committee was organized, and employment work started.

The report of that year gives a list of members, amongst whom we notice : — Chas. Alexander, James Baylis, Alex. Milloy, Geo. S. Brush, T. James Claxton, Alexander Clarke, J. P. Cleghorn, Geo. Childs, Wm. Cooper, Alex. Craig, Jacob DeWitt, David Bentley, Robert Gardner, F. E. Grafton, E. K. Greene, Alexander Harte, W. R. Hibbard, Robt. Irwin, Fred W. Kay, James Knox, James Farie, Joseph Learmont, S. H. Burnett, Thos. Leeming, John Louson, Theo. Lyman, Wm. McDunnough, Alex. McGibbon, Samuel Massey, Geo. May, John Murphy, William Muir, G. B. Muir, R. S. Oliver, Dr. Reddy, Wm. Robb, James Whitham, N. S. Whitney, J. H. Winn, Peter W. Wood, John Warnock, George Young, A. A. Stevenson, Robt. Dow, Henry Drummond, Kenneth Campbell, Henry Morton, S. B. Scott, Jos. Tees, James Walker, T. M. Taylor, Richard Matthews, William Dickson, Richard



J. H. Winn, First President, 1851.

E. T. Taylor, President, 1852.

George Childs, President, 1853-1854.

Holland, P. S. Ross, R. A. Becket, Jos. Rielle, John Wilson, H. A. Nelson, Alfred Savage, John Torrance, Jr., David Tees, John Dougall, R. C. Jamieson, William Hodgson, John Lewis, W. C. Wyatt.

In 1857 the contributions to the Mission Fund enabled them to employ an additional missionary, and Mr. Musgrove was selected. A French Bible class was added to the other meetings. The library was enlarged, and general enthusiasm displayed in connection with the work.

Montreal withdraws from the Confederation.

In this year the "Slavery question" was prominent, and on Feb. 10th a resolution was introduced in the Montreal Association declaring that slave-holders, or those in sympathy with them, were ineligible for membership. While the majority approved of this resolution, decision was deferred until the call of the next International Convention. This was finally announced for Richmond, Va., and the Montreal Association was asked to vote on the same. After much discussion on the subject it was

Resolved: "That the Montreal Association cannot vote for Richmond, Va. as the place of next Convention, and as southern Associations which reject Christian young men of color from membership, are connected with this Confederation, therefore this Association resigns its connection with this Confederation as at present constituted."

A circular was prepared and issued calling for the formation of a new union of the Associations on the above resolution. This circular was widely circulated in Great Britain and the United States, and responses came from all sections. The Associations at Kingston and Halifax followed the Montreal Association, and the Washington and San Francisco Associations,—while not withdrawing from the Confederation,—expressed their sympathy with the Montreal Association on this question.

In the year 1858 there appears to be a decline in the work. The Association was compelled to leave their rooms on St. James Street, and they removed to 90 McGill Street, at a

rental of £65 per annum, this included the missionary's residence.

In this year the proposal to erect a suitable Building was considered on account of the frequent removals. This Building was to include the general religious societies of the city. No definite action was, however, taken.

Principal Dawson, of McGill University, appears as a lecturer for the Association at this time, and he continued a most efficient member and worker until his death in 1899.

A daily noon meeting was established, and was afterwards moved to a larger room in the Mechanics' Hall.

Great interest was taken in young men coming as strangers to the city, and especially in the work among the sailors, the missionaries and their helpers visiting all the ships, and holding Bethel services every Sunday afternoon. 1,150 visits to ships were made, 60 services held, and 140 Bibles furnished to sailors, besides the large numbers of tracts distributed. The need of a "Bethel" amongst seamen was felt, and a petition was addressed to the Lords of Admiralty, presenting the facts of the case and asking for an old "war ship" which the Association would suitably fit up for such purposes. This petition was favorably received, and a dismantled vessel offered, but the expense of fitting up and bringing it to this port was found to be so great, that the plan was finally abandoned.

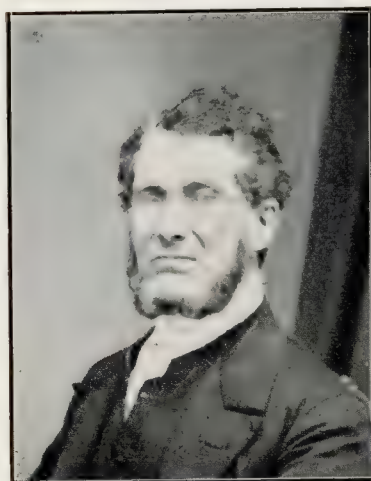
In this year Mr. John Milne was engaged as city missionary, and continued until after the erection of the Victoria Square Building.

A Dark Period.

From 1859—1862 very little was done for young men apart from the city mission work. It was a very dark period in the history of the Association. The membership was decreased so that for some time it was impossible even to secure a quorum. At this time, when it was at the lowest point, the Association occupied a room in the Mechanics' Institute, having use of the same for one hour each day and Tuesday evenings, for which they paid \$10.00 per month. On Nov.



Major General Russell, one of the Leaders, 1863-70.



John Millen, City Missionary, appointed 1838.

1st, 1862, the Association was homeless. Finally a meeting to consider the question of disbanding the Association was held on Nov. 17th, 1862. Mr. F. E. Grafton was chairman, and only nine members were present, all of whom were in favor of continuing the Association. New officers were appointed, with Mr. Thomas Leeming as President, new members secured, and two rooms obtained over the Bank of Upper Canada, on St. James Street, at a rental of £50 per annum. The membership was increased to 200, new life followed, and greater activity prevailed in all departments.

This close approach to the death of the Association proved to be the stimulus which marked the beginning of a vigorous future work, which has continued to this present time.

This new era had just gotten under way when a fire occurred in the building, damaging the furnishings of the Association, and in May, 1863, a new suite of rooms was secured adjoining the Post Office. The activity in all the branches of the work continued. Every evening was set apart for some special work at the rooms. French and music classes were formed, debates and literary evenings were planned, the Bible classes and devotional meetings were sustained, besides the city mission work and the employment work for young men. A Reference Library containing 300 volumes was added, and the Circulating Library increased to 1,376 volumes.

The Chicago Convention. Montreal re-enters the Confederation.

In this year the Chicago Association issued a call for an "International Convention." The last session of the "Confederated Associations" had been held in New Orleans in 1860, and the next Convention was called for St. Louis, but the Civil War having broken out in the meantime, it was deemed unsafe to hold the Convention at that point, and it was postponed. The Civil War broke up the old Confederation of Associations, as several States were in rebellion against the United States Government. It was decided to organize upon a new basis, by inviting all the Associations of the Loyal States and British Provinces to send delegates to Chicago. The invitation was accepted, and the Montreal Association

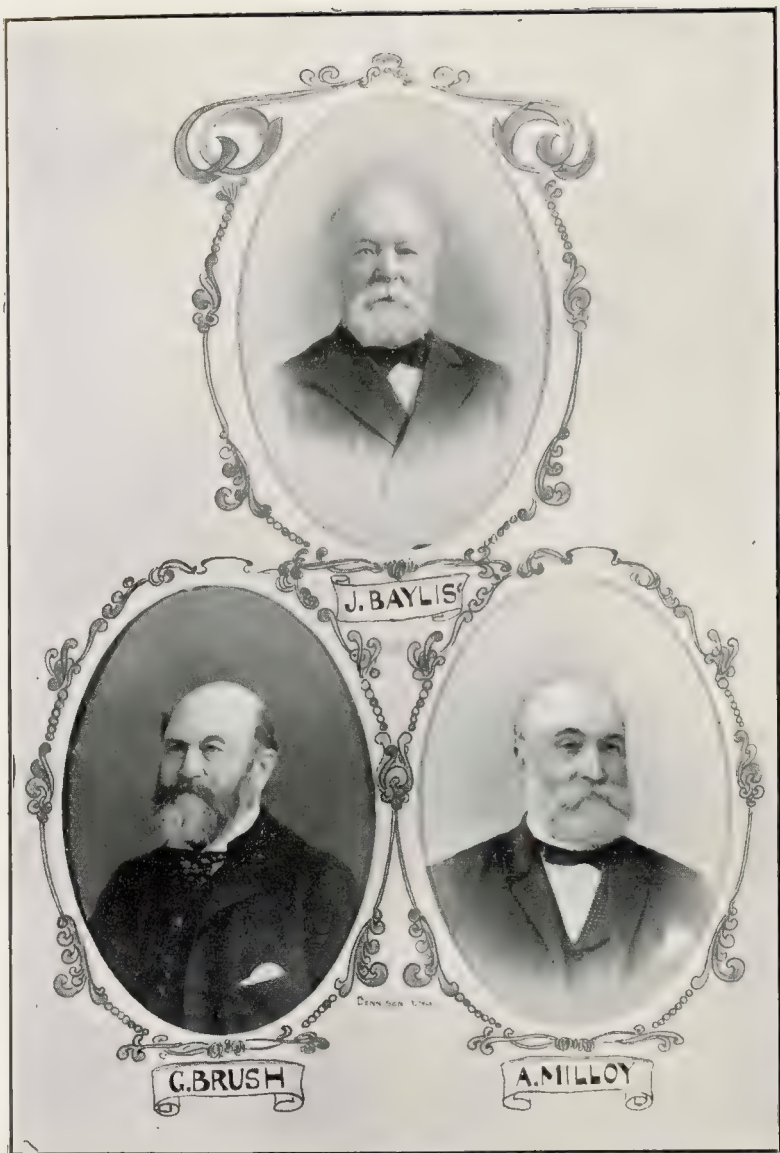
sent three delegates, with power to invite the next Convention to meet in Montreal, provided such amendments were made as they could accept.

This Convention adopted strong resolutions condemning slave holding principles, which was termed "the sum of all villanies." A reunion was effected here, and the full recognition of the rights of all Christian brethren to meet on terms of common equality, without reference to color, was granted. In this important matter the Montreal delegation took a very important part.

In 1864 the increased activity continued, and new and enlarged quarters were secured on St. James Street. The city was divided into 13 districts for mission work, a thorough organization was carried out and 20 meetings held weekly. The Sunday evening meeting on College Street was transferred to Nazareth Street. This important mission was afterwards taken over by one of the city churches, and still continues an active work. The seamen's mission was most aggressively prosecuted, and small libraries were sent out with ships, to be exchanged on the return voyage. This was very greatly appreciated by the sailors. The present Sailors' institute was founded by a member of this Association, and was an outgrowth of this work.

The work now became such a heavy burden upon the honorary officers, and the claims of young men, especially strangers, increased so rapidly, that it was resolved to engage a General Secretary, to have special charge of the work for young men, and Mr. ALFRED SANDHAM was secured, who continued in the position until March, 1874, when he was succeeded by the present Secretary, Mr. D. A. BUDGE.

To the International Convention held in Boston on June 11, 1864, the Montreal Association sent eleven delegates. Their report indicated one of the principal deliverances of the Convention to be that, "whatever occasional or general efforts the Association might undertake, they should clearly recognize their special sphere to be work for young men." From this time the mission work as carried on by the Association was transferred wherever possible to the various



James Baylis, President, 1855.

George S. Brush, President, 1857-58.

Alex. Milloy, President, 1859.

churches, and more interest and effort given to definite work for young men.

The First Militia Camp work.

In 1865, the membership increased to 400, and the amount received from subscriptions to \$2,816. This was the year of the Fenian Raid, and the Montreal Association offered the services of a Committee of 20 members to deliver parcels at the various camps, distribute tracts and reading matter, and hold meetings where practicable. This offer was accepted by the Military authorities, and the Camps at St. Johns, St. Armand, Huntingdon and Durham were visited regularly, with most beneficial results, as acknowledged by the officers in charge.

The Outdoor Relief Work for the city was constituted in connection with the work of the Association's city missionary. This was carried on for two years, and then assumed by the "Out-door Relief Committee" and held since then in connection with the Protestant House of Industry.

The news of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, led to a special meeting being called, and the appointment of a committee to draft a letter to the Associations of the United States, extending to them sympathy and condolence on account of their nation's sorrow. This letter was received with great appreciation by the Associations of the United States.

Twelfth International Convention.

The year 1867 showed a marked development. 249 new members were added, making a total of 649. The rooms were removed to the Bible House, corner of Craig and Alexander Streets, where the second floor was leased for a term of years. This year was especially important on account of the meeting of the Twelfth International Convention in Montreal on June 19th. This was the second time the International Convention met in Montreal. Great changes had occurred since the first meeting in 1856. Then 35 Associations were represented by 98 delegates; at this time there were

597 delegates representing 106 Associations with 75 corresponding members. The great Civil War had just closed. Thousands of the flower of the young men of the United States had perished on the field of battle, and the nation had been purged from the fearful curse of slavery. The British Provinces had been united in Confederation under the title of the Dominion of Canada, and this country had just taken her place among the nations of the earth. The Convention was a most important one. It lasted five days. Major-General Russell, commander of the British forces, presided over the welcome meeting, and Sir Henry Havelock was on the list of speakers. Messrs. T. J. Claxton, D. Bentley, and J. R. Dougall, formed the Committee of Arrangements; and the Reception Committee :—Major-General Russell, Hon. James Ferrier, Principal Dawson, Messrs. E. K. Greene, James Court, Henry Lyman and Charles Alexander.

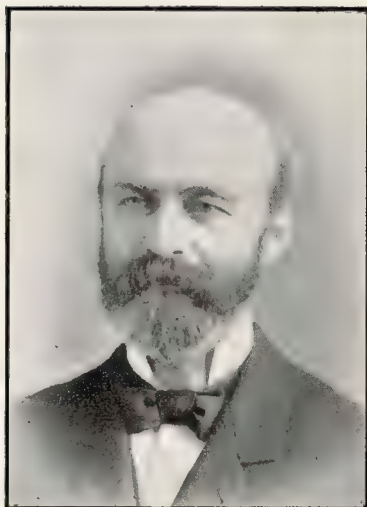
This Convention was remarkable for its International character. Delegates from Northern and Southern States were sitting side by side, just at the close of their prolonged and fearful struggle, and uniting together as Christian workers. The spiritual power and influence of these meetings was most remarkable, and attracted attention throughout the land.

It will be remembered that the Montreal Association had been foremost in protesting against the exclusion of colored men from the membership of the Association, and had withdrawn from the Confederation on that account. It was her pleasing duty to welcome at this Convention a delegation of colored men who were for the first time received as accredited delegates. This delegation came from New York City, and was the first Association organized for colored men. Their President, Mr. E. V. Eato, in presenting his report, was called to the platform, and was received with the greatest enthusiasm. He said :

“ Mr. President and Christian Brethren—I rejoice that as a representative of the first Colored Association, I stand under the glorious flag of Her Most Gracious Majesty, and upon the soil of Canada, where so many of my brethren, once enslaved, now forever free, have found an asylum. Our Association is



Thos. Leeming, President, 1862.



John R. Dougall, President, 1864.



Rev. Samuel Massey,
Appointed City Missionary, 1853.



Alfred Sandham, First General Secretary,
Appointed 1864 and continued until 1874.

but three months old. We have now 52 members. We feel that the practical work of reconstruction for our young men of the South must be done through this kind of labor, and by Christian young men. Politics may do much to reconstruct society, but we need the refining process of Christianity to make them good, true, noble citizens and worshippers of God."

Brigadier-General Charles H. Howard, of Washington, presented the following resolution:—Resolved: "That the Committee on Associations be instructed to adopt such measures as in their judgment will best promote the formation of Young Men's Christian Associations among the colored men throughout the United States and British Provinces."

This year, 1867, saw the formation of the first Branch of the Montreal Association, in Point St. Charles, with Mr. Lemuel Cushing, jr., as President, and Mr. J. R. Dougall as Secretary. It continued for two years and then disbanded.

Through deputations from Montreal, Associations were organized in Kingston and Brockville, and a visitation of all the Associations in the Eastern Section of Canada was carried out, which was the earliest form of our present provincial work.

The years 1868-70 do not present any special features. The general work was continued and increased. Every year the report refers to the need of a Building for the use of the Association, and Major-General Russell acted as chairman of a meeting, held at the residence of Joseph Mackay, Esq., for the purpose of initiating this project.

During the visit of His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, in April, 1870, a reception was tendered to him at the rooms on Alexander Street. He expressed his pleasure at being present and his deep interest in the work for young men. Sir Henry Havelock and Major Malan delivered addresses.

The Victoria Square Building Project.

This year saw the successful inauguration of the Building project which for several years had been on the minds and hearts of the members. A Bible House was proposed in which the Association would have suitable rooms, but this

plan was frustrated. On Sept. 22, 1870, a series of meetings was held under the auspices of the Association, called a "Laymen's Institute," conducted by Mr. K. A. Burnell, of Illinois. Some of the topics discussed were "Personal Religion," "Christians should study to be personally more attractive," "Religion in the Family," "Obligations of Christian business men to their employees." While these meetings were not largely attended, they aroused a deeper interest in the Association, and on Friday evening, Sept. 30th, a public meeting was held in the Mechanics' Hall to consider the Building project. Mr. Burnell and Mr. Claxton had called upon a number of business men and the project was favorably received. Mr. Claxton headed the list with \$2,500, and his example was liberally followed by a large number of the business men of the city.

A most encouraging feature was the self-denying subscriptions made by the young men. The total amount aimed at was \$25,000, and the subscription list represented \$17,040, which had been secured in one week. This success gave a great impetus to the general work. A site was secured on the corner of Craig and St. Radegonde Streets at a cost of \$14,000, a Building Committee named, plans secured, and on Sept. 7, 1872, in the presence of a large assembly of the most representative citizens, the corner stone of the new building was laid by Mr. T. James Claxton, President of the Association. Rev. Geo. C. Wells, Dr. Potts, Dr. Burns, Dr. Wilkes and Mr. Burnell, of Illinois, were the speakers. When completed the Building was to cost \$50,000, and one-half of that amount had been secured. The project had been conceived in prayer, it was prosecuted in prayer, the corner-stone was laid in prayer, and they looked forward to the completion of the work in the same hopeful spirit.

During these twenty-two years the Association had occupied rented rooms as follows :

- 1st. —1852-55, Oddfellows' Hall, St. James Street.
- 2nd.—1855-56, One room at 205 Notre Dame Street.
- 3rd.—1857-58, St. James Street, near the Ottawa Hotel.



David Bentley, President, 1865-1866.

Lemuel Cushing, President, 1867-1868.

George Hague, President, 1880-1881.

4th. —1858-62, At 90 McGill Street.

5th. —1862-63, On St. James Street, over Bank of Upper Canada.

6th. —1863-66, On St. James Street, near the Post-Office.

7th. —1866-73, Bible House, cor. Craig and Alexander Streets.

During the same period three city missionaries were employed :—Rev. Samuel Massey, Rev. C. P. Watson and Mr. John Milne. Mr. Alfred Sandham was the first General Secretary appointed in 1863, and occupied the position for ten years, until the opening of the Victoria Square Building. The following gentlemen occupied the position of President during this period :—

1851	—J. H. Winn.	1860-61	—F. E. Grafton.
1852	—Edward Taylor.	1862	—Thomas Leeming.
1853-54	—George Childs.	1863	—T. James Claxton.
1855	—James Baylis.	1864	—J. R. Dougall.
1856	—T. James Claxton.	1865-66	—David Bentley
1857-58	—George S. Brush.	1867-68	—Lemuel Cushing.
1859	—Alex. Milloy.	1869-73	—T. James Claxton.

In reviewing the early history of the Association, there is one name which must be mentioned, as it was largely through his untiring effort that the Association was kept alive and true to its original purpose.

MR. T. JAMES CLAXTON,

not only gave time and money to this work, but he also kept the Montreal Movement prominently before the Association leaders on the Continent. Together with such men as the Hon. Cephas Brainard, and Robert R. McBurney, of New York, Jno. S. McLean, of Halifax, and other early Fathers, he had an important part in helping to shape the policy of the general work during the first twenty-five years of its history. It was almost entirely through his efforts that the Victoria Square Building was secured.

The period from 1873 to 1891—in the Victoria Square Building.

The Building was opened and dedicated on Oct. 23, 1873, when a week's services were held. At these services Mr. H. Thane Miller, of Cincinnati, Ohio ; Mr. K. A. Burnell, of Chicago, and T. Jas. Wilkie, Secretary at Toronto, were present. These meetings were full of interest, and commanded the attention of the citizens. The Building contained only Reading Room, Library, Offices and Hall, but it was an immense step in advance.

In February, 1874, Mr. Alfred Sandham resigned the Secretaryship, and on March 10th, 1874, Mr. D. A. Budge, who was a worker on the Committee force of the Association, was secured as Secretary, and has continued in the same position until the present time.

Work for Boys begun.

During this year 569 new members were added to the list, making a total of 1,360. Work for boys was organized into a separate Committee, and a weekly meeting conducted with an average attendance of 25. This Association was one of the first on the Continent in organizing this important Branch of the work.

Evening classes in Commercial and Mechanical branches were also proposed, and comment was made upon the fact that no suitable accommodation was provided. In fact, the Building was considered too small before the end of the second year of its occupation. Two classes, one in French and one in phonography, were started.

A daily noon meeting was started and continued until 1889 with most helpful results.

The annual expenditure had increased to \$5,664, which was secured by the Finance Committee with great difficulty. This was caused by the pressure on account of the heavy debt on the Building.

In June of this year, a monthly publication called "The



J. M. Smith, President, 1882-1883.
Dr. F. W. Kelly, President, 1884-1885. R. H. Holland, President, 1886-87.

Christian Worker" was issued, giving facts and announcements concerning the work.

The year 1875 shows great activity in the religious meetings; special services were held under the direction of Mr. W. P. Crombie, Rev. A. N. Somerville, of Glasgow; Mr. Geo. C. Needham, and Mr. Harry Moorehouse. These services held at different times greatly quickened the religious life of the members, and many conversions were reported.

During this year Mr. John Currie came to the Association Building. His life had been blasted through intemperance. His coming to the meetings resulted in his conversion to God. He at once became an active worker and soon entered evangelistic work in which he has continued with much acceptance ever since. He has labored in all sections of this continent, and is now in charge of the Inspector Street Mission in this city.

During this year work among the city firemen was organized, and every Sunday morning a committee led by Mr. W. J. Orr, visited all the fire stations, leaving papers and books, and conversing with the men as they had opportunity. This work was carried on for a number of years with excellent results.

An Employment Bureau was started, and certain hours of each day devoted to this branch.

To meet and provide for the crowd of men out of work who made the rooms a loafing place in winter, a separate room was secured on Craig Street, and a man was placed in charge. Daily meetings were held from three to four o'clock. This relieved the Reading Room, and made the Building a more attractive resort for the members.

The Building Debt subscribed.

The special feature of these years, 1877-78, was the removal of the debt of \$20,000 from the Building. So pressing had this burden become that the regular work was being hindered, and the offer of the Treasurer to secure \$10,000 from the merchants of the city, provided the young men would secure an additional \$10,000, was accepted, and the amount

was subscribed within the year. The Young Men's amount was secured by one hundred young men subscribing \$100 each, payable in three years. Mr. Stapleton Caldecott's name should be associated with the Treasurer in this effort, as he was one of the most enthusiastic and practical workers.

In 1879 the Association suffered great loss through the resignation of their President, Mr. T. James Claxton, who, for 28 years, had been so actively identified with the work. In fact it was largely through his efforts that the building on Victoria Square had been secured. He had also been most helpful in the development of the general work on the continent. A general depression in business throughout the country caused the failure of many firms and a consequent reduction of the staff, so that both the membership and the subscriptions suffered, and the difficulties greatly increased. The distinctive religious work of the Association was always kept in the first place, and most encouraging results were secured. Special meetings were held, conducted by Mr. W. P. Crombie, Rev. Dr. Parsons, of Buffalo, and Mr. George Muller, of Bristol, England. This year closed with a debt on current expenses of \$1,950.

In the same year the Association began meetings for Grand Trunk Railway men at Point St. Charles. Through the courtesy of the Grand Trunk these were held in the "mess room," and were largely attended.

A Sunday afternoon meeting was also organized on behalf of Commercial Travellers. This work was finally abandoned through lack of support. A Sabbath afternoon Temperance Meeting was organized in 1881, and sustained with good interest for three years. Mr. Henry Morton was the chairman of the Committee and the principal worker in this meeting.

In 1879 work was undertaken in the Volunteer Militia Camp at St. Johns, Que. A tent was secured and fitted up as a Reading and Game room, and arranged for evening evangelistic meetings. It became very popular and the officers in charge acknowledged the service which was rendered to the



Victoria Square Building, occupied from 1873 to 1891.



Dominion Square Building, entered December, 1891.

men in Camp. Excellent results were obtained. This was made an annual feature of the work of the Association, and followed the Military Camp at Farnham, Granby, Richmond, Compton, St. Johns, Laprairie, or wherever held. This has continued up to the present time.

In 1881 the question of enlarging the educational work in the line of evening classes and lectures for young men was carefully considered by a special committee. The result was that short courses of lectures were planned on Physiology and Hygiene, Chemistry, Canadian History, First Principles of Machinery, and classes were formed in Arithmetic and Bookkeeping in addition to those in French and Shorthand. Many difficulties were experienced from the fact that the rooms were not suitable for this work, but it was now so successful, especially in the evening classes, that these were continued each year and increased up to the limit of the accommodation.

Work for Railroad Men begun.

In 1882 the work of the Railroad men of the Grand Trunk Railway was enlarged by securing Mr. Frank Lonsdale, formerly Secretary at York, England, to take charge of this branch. His work consisted of visitation of the men at their homes, tract distribution, holding a Sunday evening meeting, Bible Classes and the Gospel meetings on Sunday afternoon in the Mess Room, the use of which was kindly granted by the Company.

The work of hospital visitation of young men was systematically undertaken by Mr. John Louson, and carried on effectively for many years with excellent results.

In 1882 the formation and development of Workers' Training Classes became a marked feature. This led to an increased attention being given to Bible study and personal work.

The year 1883 reports the following members of this Association who had been called to fill the position of General Secretary:—

James E. Gould	Bangor, Maine.
Wm. J. Orr	St. Thomas, Ont.
Frank Lonsdale	Hamilton, Ont.
Geo. E. Williams	Peterboro, Ont.
G. A. Kuhring	Ottawa, Ont.
R. C. Brewer	Owen Sound, Ont.
F. M. Pratt	Springfield, Mass.
Chas. T. Williams	San Antonio, Texas.

At this time a greater concentration of the work on behalf of young men was considered, with the following results :

First—Giving more attention to the membership, considering men individually, and personal visitation.

2nd.—The development of active members on Committee work.

3rd.—The work among strangers and the unemployed.

This plan centred the work more than ever around the Building and revealed the fact that nothing was being done on the Physical, and but little on the Social side, as there was no accommodation in the building for these branches. To meet the social need the permanent seats were removed from the hall and it was converted into a parlor. To meet the need of Physical work an affiliation was made with Mr. Barnjum whereby the members could enter classes in his gymnasium for physical culture. A Lacrosse and Football Club was also organized.

It was in 1885 that the mixed meeting held on Sunday evenings at eight o'clock was changed to a meeting for men only, thus making the work one entirely for young men and boys.

Work for Young Men in Foreign Lands begun.

During 1888, through a visit from Rev. J. Hudson Taylor, of the China Inland Mission, special interest was aroused in work for young men in foreign lands, and a committee named to present papers and addresses on this subject, and secure subscriptions to a mission fund. The first year resulted in raising \$196.00. The following year the International Com-



D. W. Ross, President, 1888-1889.

L. H. Packard, President, 1892-1893.

Abner Kingman, President, 1890-1891.

mittee appointed Mr. J. T. Swift, of New York, to proceed to Japan, and shortly afterwards Mr. David McConaughy was sent to Madras, India. The Montreal Committee resolved to accept India as their field, and appropriated their gifts to this special work. In the past thirteen years the interest in this work for young men in foreign lands has steadily increased.

The Dominion Square Building Movement.

The pressure in all departments in the Building, notwithstanding the recent enlargement, made it absolutely necessary that a new Building should be secured. In 1887, a special Committee was named to consider the whole matter, and after a great deal of investigation it was decided to launch the new Building movement. The securing of a suitable lot was a great problem. Many locations were considered, having in view the future growth of the city, and finally at the close of a series of evangelistic meetings under Mr. D. L. Moody, which had been held in the Crystal Rink, Dominion Square, he was asked to counsel with the Committee on this important matter. "Why not select this site where the meetings are now being held?" His counsel prevailed, and on May 4, 1888, the deed was signed, which transferred to the Association the present site on Dominion Square. The Building Committee was enlarged and resolved to meet each Thursday morning for prayer and conference having these three points in view :

1. That their decisions might be unanimous.
2. That the labor of canvassing for funds and the gifts donated might be a spiritual blessing to all concerned.
3. That the building might be erected to the glory of God and for the young men of the city free of debt.

Thus the Dominion Square Building was initiated, and the great work of securing funds for its erection begun. Mr. Warden King was chairman, and those associated with him continued their work in this spirit until its completion. Their prayers were abundantly answered. Messrs. Fuller & Wheeler, of Albany, N.Y., were chosen as architects, on account of their previous experience in erecting similar Buildings,, and five months were occupied in the careful

preparation and consideration of plans. Work was commenced August 17, 1889, when the foundations were put in, and on April 13, 1890, the work proceeded until its completion in December, 1891.

During the occupancy of the Victoria Square Building the following gentlemen filled the office of President :

1873-79.—T. James Claxton 1886-87.—R. Henry Holland.
 1880-81.—George Hague. 1888-89.—D. W. Ross.
 1882-83.—J. Murray Smith. 1890-91.—Abner Kingman.
 1884-85.—Dr. F. W. Kelly.

The name of Mr. Warden King must ever be prominently mentioned in connection with the carrying through of this Building enterprize. The time, thought and patient service which he rendered was invaluable, and the young men of the city owe him a debt which should not be forgotten.

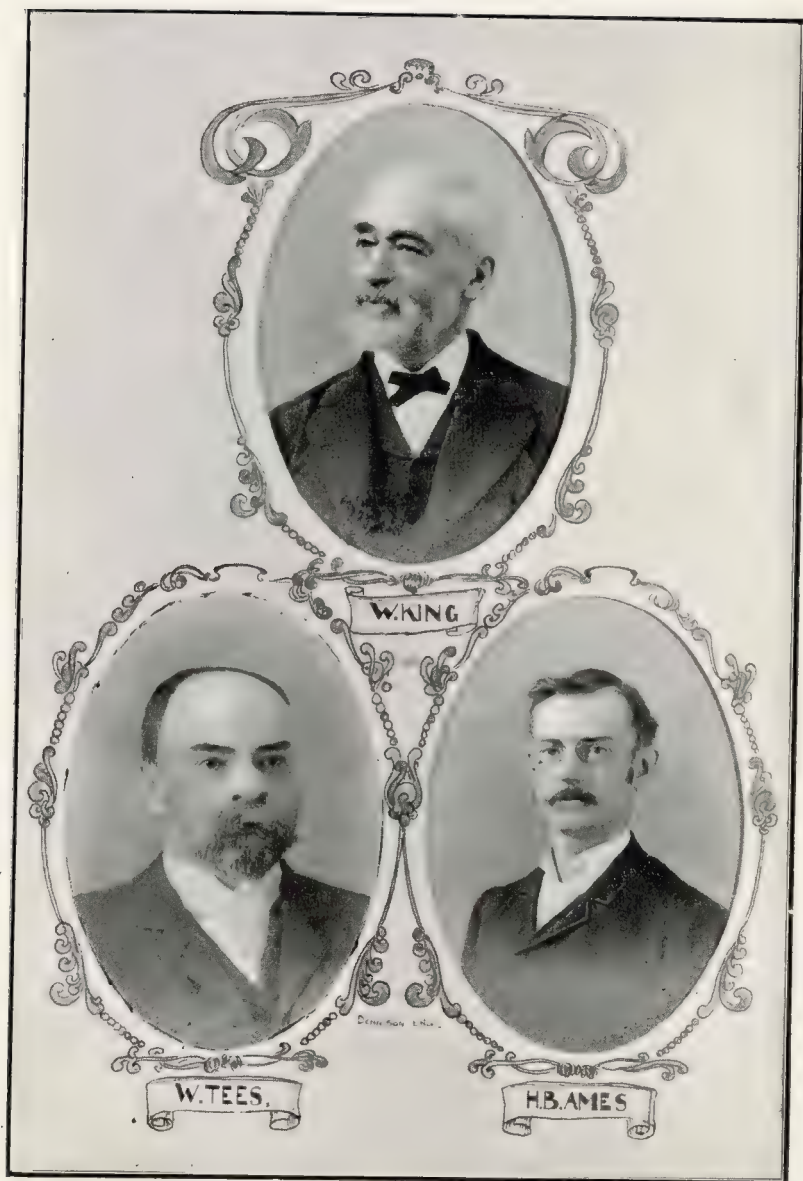
The Victoria Square Building was finally sold.

The period from 1891 to 1901—ten years in the Dominion Square Building.

The entrance upon the Dominion Square Building, in the fall of 1891, was marked by an immediate increase in the membership, which has continued steadily until the present, growing from 1,070 in 1891, to 2,070 in 1901. The work of the Association has tended to concentrate in the Building where the Educational, Physical and Junior Departments were carefully organized and enlarged with increased supervision.

The Extension Fund which began in the Victoria Square Building was continued in the Dominion Square Building with good results in every way.

In September, 1896, an important step in advance was taken when the Association decided to become responsible for the support of Mr. David McConaughy, Secretary of the International Committee, in Madras, India. The givings of the members were increased to \$1,200 a year to this object for a term of five years. In addition individual members of the Association became responsible for the entire support of



Warden King, Chairman Finance Committee, 1883-1888; Treasurer, 1892-96.
 Wm. Tees, President, 1894-1895. H. B. Ames, President, 1896-97.

five of the Secretaries of the International Committee in India and Japan.

In January, 1893, the Provincial Convention of Ontario and Quebec met in our Association. Over one hundred delegates were present, representing the Associations of the two Provinces.

When the Dominion Square lot was secured the Committee sought to purchase the rear half of the adjoining lot on Dorchester Street, for an annex where the gymnasium and other buildings might be placed, but this was impossible. Mr. Warden King, however, kept the matter in mind, and in 1894 purchased the whole lot, making a deed of the rear half, 64 x 69, costing \$10,000, to the Association. This lot is still waiting the erection of an annex to the present building. In 1895 the death of Mr. Warden King occurred, and the Association lost one of its most interested and helpful friends.

Rooms for Members.

In July and August, 1896, the Secretary was asked by the International Committee to assist in making a study of the Grand Trunk Railway System as to the possibilities of organizing Association work for the men at divisional points. A report was made, and through Mr. Chas. M. Hays, General Manager, presented to the Board of Directors in London, England, who agreed to the introduction of the work as conducted for railroad men at nine points on their line. They also made an annual appropriation towards the current work at these points. As a result four buildings have been erected, and at five other points rooms secured. Nine men are now employed as Secretaries, in these Railway Associations. Since early in 1899, a Secretary has been in charge of the Railway Branch at Point St. Charles, and a new Building is under consideration.

The heavy mortgage debt of \$51,000 on the new Building was felt to be a great hindrance to the development of the work. After frequent reference to the matter in succeeding Annual Reports a Committee of young men with Mr. Alec. Arthur as chairman, proposed to raise a fund of \$10,000 from

among the young men. The report of their action to the Board of Directors in November, 1897, led to a unanimous decision to make a great effort to clear off the whole debt. A special Committee was appointed which met with other members of the Board each week for prayer and conference, and after a persistent and faithful canvass, subscriptions covering the whole amount were secured in the spring of 1899.

In 1897 the loss of the largest tenant led to the change of the third and fourth floors of the Building into bed rooms for young men. These changes together with the furnishings required cost \$8,500.

The additional amount of \$8,500 for changes made in the Third and Fourth Floors, was included in the Building Fund, and subscriptions secured to cover it.

In 1898 a Ladies' Committee was added to the Committee organization. Although for years the ladies of the various churches had freely assisted the Association, no organized work had been done. They agreed to assist in the Social Department, and also to help in advising concerning the appointments of the Building.

On March 10th, 1899, Mr. D. A. Budge, Secretary of the Association completed twenty-five years service. The occasion was marked by a meeting of members and friends at eight o'clock that morning in the Lecture Hall for prayer, praise and thanksgiving. At the Annual Business Meeting of the Association on May 16th following, the members presented him with a silver tea service in honor of the event, and on Thursday evening, May 18th, a Banquet was tendered him by the Board of Directors, members and business men of the city. At this meeting Rev. Theodore Cuyler, D.D., and Messrs. R. C. Morse and John R. Mott, of New York City, were present and delivered addresses. Mr. Budge was granted four months' leave of absence, and, accompanied by Mrs. Budge, took an extended trip to Europe.

With the Canadian Contingents in South Africa.

In October, 1899, when the war broke out in South Africa, and two Canadian Contingents volunteered their services, this



Chas. T. Williams, President, 1898 to 1901.

Association took initial steps in arranging that Association Secretaries accompany the regiments. This was done under the direction of the Provincial Committee and Dr. H. G. Barrie, and Mr. Thos. F. Best, Secretary at Brantford, went out with the troops and continued with them until their return. The Association also secured through Miss Gould of this city the sum of \$3,000 to be used by our representatives for the immediate necessities of the men. The efforts of our Secretaries were deeply appreciated by both officers and men, and the good effect of this work upon all our Canadian Associations cannot be over estimated.

Since entering the Dominion Square Building, the following Bequests were received :

Estate Robert Anderson	\$1,800
" E. F. Ames	450
" Warden King	4,500
" W. J. Withall	450
" E. K. Greene	1,000
" J. C. Wilson	900
" John Archibald	7,971
" Mrs. Sanders	450

This would indicate that during the last ten years the attention of the citizens has been drawn to the future needs and development of the work in the city as never before.

During this decade the following Directors have filled the President's chair :

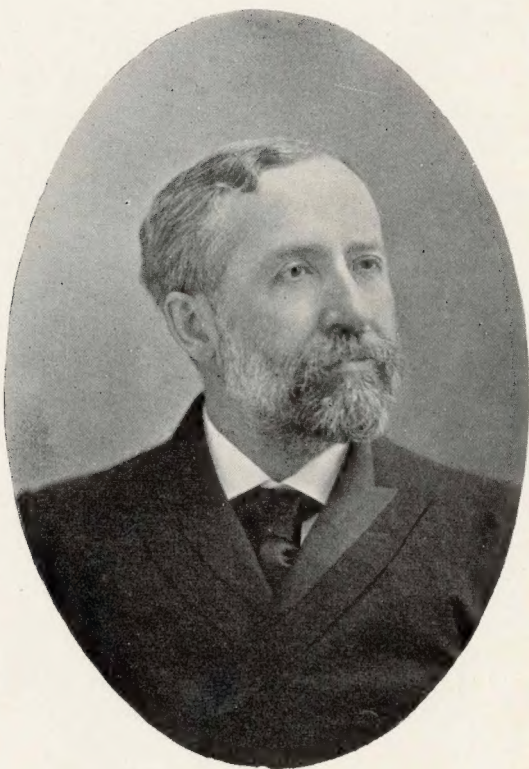
1890-92.—Abner Kingman.	1894-96.—William Tees.
1892-94.—L. H. Packard.	1896-98.—Herbert B. Ames.
1898-1901.—Chas. T. Williams.	

After ten years in the Dominion Square Building, the pressure for expansion in all the departments and the establishment of branches in other sections of the city is very great.

For all that has been accomplished we would render humble and devout thanksgiving to God. We confidently commit the future of the work to His care and guidance, as the sole

aim of the Association is the extension of His Kingdom among the young men of our city and land.

No sketch of the history of the Association would be complete without reference to the noble part taken by the one who under the good guidance of God has now for over 27 years largely moulded its policy and directed its life, the beloved General Secretary, Mr. D. A. Budge. He has brought to his life work not only a consecrated religious devotion and an extraordinary sympathy for young men, but also a business capacity and sound judgment, which to a large degree has been the means of keeping the Association true to the lines of its direct work instead of wasting its power on side issues, which so often beset such work. He has secured the esteem and active support of the business men of Montreal and been able to surround himself with and retain sympathetic workers for the prosecution of the objects of the Association. He has largely by his efforts, through the esteem in which he is held in the community, been enabled to raise the funds which now places, free of debt, in the possession of the young men of Montreal, a property worth over \$175,000. His influence has guided the lives of many men for their eternal blessing and good, and truly, as of Sir Christopher Wren, it will be said of him, when the time comes for him to render up his account, "If you wish to see his monument look around" in the hearts and lives of the young men he has touched during all these years.



D. A. Budge, General Secretary, appointed 1874,
having been in active service for 27 years, and still directs the
work of the Montreal Association.



Placed on the Warehouse of Gault Brothers Co., Limited,
St. Helen Street, Montreal.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 1900-1901.

PRESIDENT.

CHARLES T. WILLIAMS.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

H. J. MUDGE.

TREASURER.

L. H. PACKARD.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

GEO. LAMB.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Term expires May 1st, 1901.

D. W. ROSS.

CHARLES T. WILLIAMS.

JAMES W. KNOX.

D. BENTLEY.

H. B. AMES.

G. H. HARROWER.

C. E. GAULT.

Term expires May 1st, 1902.

ABNER KINGMAN.

JOHN KENNEDY.

R. H. BUCHANAN.

ROBERT HENDERSON.

CHARLES CUSHING.

ROBERT MUNRO.

C. C. HOLLAND.

Term expires May 1st, 1903.

H. J. MUDGE.

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C. W. BROWN.

DR. W. F. HAMILTON.

SETH P. LEET.

JOHN W. ROSS.

ADVISORY DIRECTORS.

JOHN MURPHY.

WALTER PAUL.

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DAVID YUILE.